

1 CLAIMS

2 27. A spring having force levels varying by less than 30% over more than 40% of
3 maximum deflection capacity during loading, comprising a pseudoelastic element
4 that has a memory shape and stiffened by a bracing that is not pseudoelastic, with
5 at least one segment where said bracing is absent and at least one of flexural and
6 torsional deformations concentrate.

7 28. The spring according to claim 24, wherein said pseudoelastic material is formed
8 of elements selected from the group consisting essentially of Ni, Ag, Au, Cd, In,
9 Ga, Si, Ge, Sn, Sb, Zn, Nb, Cu, Co, Fe, Mn, Pt, Al, Ti, Cr, Be, C and Tl, and
10 combinations thereof.

11 29. The spring according to claim 24, wherein said pseudoelastic element has been
12 formed and then heat treated when restrained in order to assume said memory
13 shape.

14 30. The spring according to claim 24, wherein said force levels are applied and
15 removed at least once for improving stability under subsequent repeated load
16 application.

17 31. The spring according claim 24, wherein said pseudoelastic element has at least
18 one of rectangular, circular and elliptical cross sections.

19 32. A brush holder incorporating a spring having force levels varying by less than
20 30% over more than 40% of maximum deflection capacity during loading,
21 comprising a pseudoelastic element that has a memory shape and stiffened by a
22 bracing that is not pseudoelastic, with at least one segment where said bracing is
23 absent and at least one of flexural and torsional deformations concentrate.

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- 1 33. A brush holder according to claim 29, wherein said force levels of said spring
2 vary by less than 30% over more than 40% of maximum deflection capacity
3 during unloading.
4 34. A brush holder according to claim 29, wherein said pseudoelastic spring is at
5 least partly fixed against lateral deflections.
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